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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /134 W
----------010530Z 012465 /10
R 310931Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4233
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4538

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA
SUBJECT: ROK/JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT RATIFICATION

REF: TOKYO 7896 (DTG 270906Z MAY 77)

SUMMARY: ROK WELCOMES PROSPECTIVE AUTOMATIC DIET RATIFICATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH ROKG AND PRESS ALREADY FOCUSSING ON COMPLICATIONS WHICH COULD BE CAUSED BY NECESSARY ADDITIONAL JAPANESE LEGISLATION. OVER-ALL IMPACT, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO BE BENEFICIAL, AND WELL-INFORMED ROK OBSERVERS SEE GOJ ACTION AS INDICATING FUTURE CLOSE ROK-JAPAN COOPERATION. END SUMMARY

1. EXTENSION OF JAPANESE DIET, VOTED MAY 28, WHICH
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ASSURES AUTOMATIC PASSAGE OF DIET RATIFICATION OF ROK/JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT, WAS REPORTED PROMINENTLY ON FRON PAGE OF ROK PRESS MAY 28 THROUGH MAY 31. KOREANS ARE CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED WITH ISSUE OF US TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND ROK SECURITY AND REACTION TO SHELF AGREEMENT RATIFICATION HAS BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY THESE ISSUES. NONETHELESS, THE THREE MAJOR POLITICAL

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PARTIES HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS WELCOMING JAPANESE ACTION AND CHARACTERIZING IT AS "COURAGEOUS AND SINCERE". NORHEAST ASIA DIVISION I DIRECTOR PAK YUN, CHARACTERIZED IT AS SIGNIFICANT PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT WOULD PREVENT AN OTHERWISE ANTICIPATED DETERIORATION IN ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THE LEGISLATION WAS PARTICULARLY WELCOME BECAUSE THE ROKG HAD BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST REALISTIC OPPORTUNITY THE JAPANESE WOULD HAVE FOR RATIFYING THE AGREEMENT.

2. PRESS AND PUBLIC ATTENTION IS NOW TURNING TO LEGISLATION WHICH MUST BE PASSED BY DIET IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN CONTINENTAL SHELF DEVELOPMENT, SINCE JAPANESE MAY BE RELUCTANT TO EXCHANGE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION IN ABSENCE OF THIS LEGISLATION. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMBASSY POLCOUNS MABUCHI, MOFA HAS ALREADY BEGU TO URGE JAPANESE TO PASS LEGISLATION IN TIME TO PERMIT RATIFICATION TO BE REPORTED TO ROK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DURING TWO WEEK EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO OPEN JUNE 20 TO DISCUSS US TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND ROK-JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHEFL. MABUCHI NOTED THAT KOREANS ARE NOT GIVEN TO EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR JAPANESE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP AND THAT THE BEST JAPANESE CAN HOPE FOR IS THAT ROK-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP WILL BE IGNORED BY THE PRESS, SINCE ONLY GOOD NEWS IS NO NEWS BETWEEN ROK AND JAPAN.

3. ROK-JAPAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE SECGEN KIM CHU-JU (DRP NATPEONAL ASSEMBLYMAN) TOLD EMBOFF MAY 31 THAT ALTHOUGH CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESS WAS NOW FOCUSSING ATTENTION ON ENABLING LEGISLATION, FUKUDO GOVERNMENT HAD CLEARED MOST IMPORTANT HURDLE AND MITI WAS ALREADY AT WORK ON NECESSARY LEGISLATION WHICH JAPANESE POLITICAL LEADERS HAD TOLD HIM WOULD BE PASSED AND WHICH THEY APPARENTLY CONSIDERED PRO-FORMA. KIM WAS UNCONCERNED AT WHAT HE REGARDED AS MINOR OBSTACLE AND CALLED EMBOFF'S ATTENTION TO POSSIBLE LONG-RANGE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS IF OIL DISCOVERED IN AGREEMENT AREA. HE SAID PROSPECT OF LONG-RANGE ROK-JAPAN COOPERATION, WITH POSSIBLE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS, LAY AT ROOT OF PRC OBJECTIONS TO AGREEMENT, AND WAS PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT LOGN-RANGE POTENTIAL BENEFIT OF AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: ROK IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO DEVELOP CUSTOMARY EMULLIENCE WHICH OCCURS HERE AT ANY PROSPECTIVE GOOD FORTUNE-- IN THIS CASE POSSIBLE OIL DISCOVERY. MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF DIET ACTION, HOWEVER, IS AVOIDANCE OF WORSENING ROK-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP AND COOPERATIVE THEME IT SIGNALS FOR ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS DURING FUKUDA ADMINISTRATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINENTAL SHELF, AGREEMENTS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL04538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: SEOUL
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977052/aaaaabiv.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TOKYO 7896
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2376502
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK/JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT RATIFICATION
TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d95f498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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